

# Chronic Wasting Disease and Wisconsin Deer

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WDNR began monitoring the state's wild white-tailed deer herd for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in 1999. The first positives in the state, and the first positive cases east of the Mississippi River, were found in three adult male deer, hunter harvested in the Mount Horeb area during fall 2001. WDNR responded by immediately implementing an intensive spring surveillance effort in this area to determine the extent and distribution of CWD infection. Over 2,000 deer from this area were tested for CWD between March and September 2002.

The largest wildlife health surveillance effort in the country took place in Wisconsin during October and November 2002. CWD samples were collected from approximately 500 wild deer from each county of the state. Statewide test results helped determine the presence and prevalence of CWD in the wild white-tailed deer herd. Results to date with approximately 80% of the statewide surveillance testing completed indicate that CWD appears to be localized in western Dane-eastern Iowa counties, and a small portion of southern Sauk County. All CWD surveillance efforts are being performed to further understand and control the spread of the disease. Results of surveillance efforts should not be interpreted in terms of meat safety. However, there is no scientific evidence to date suggesting that CWD poses a health risk to humans.

## Wisconsin CWD Surveillance in 2002:

DNR Zone	# Sampled	# Analyzed	Positive for CWD	% Positive
Intensive Harvest / Eradication Zone	12,187	12,099	198	1.64%
Management Zone	6,060	6,040	6	0.10%
Remainder of Wisconsin	21,836	21,794	0	
Zone Not Identified	2	2	0	
<b>Total Sampled Statewide</b>	<b>40,085</b>			
<b>Total Analyzed Statewide</b>		<b>39,935</b>		
<b>Total Positive Statewide</b>			<b>204</b>	

## Surveillance in other states:

Iowa: Iowa DNR regulates wild and captive white-tailed deer, Iowa Department of Agriculture regulates all other captive cervids. To date, no CWD positives from 3,400 white-tails tested, 288 captive cervids tested.

Illinois: 8 CWD positive wild white-tailed deer of 91 samples tested. Concentrated in northern tier of 3 counties. Strict surveillance program now to determine where CWD is distributed in the state.

Minnesota: No positive wild white-tailed deer to date. Three positive captive elk. Trace-out from 1 positive captive elk farm found animals from this farm transferred to 17 other states.

For more detailed CWD information, check the WDNR CWD website at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/index.htm>